

REIMAGINING CITY HALL PLAZA

SYRACUSE ASPHALT ART PROJECT

Semi-Finalist – Jessica Whitley



CITY OF SYRACUSE + ADAPT CNY
MAYOR BEN WALSH





Artist's Intention

While brainstorming for this project, I found so many varying aspects of Syracuse that created this space we call home, I decided to focus on combining all of these aspects. The mural itself is composed of a large tree sprawling in front of the steps to city hall, with hands supporting the trunk. Large branches and colorful leaves extend to the edges until the scenery changes to the loosely sketched skyline of Syracuse. Atop the completed mural will be a faint outline of a puzzle, visible enough that those up close can see the outline, though transparent enough that focus remains on the larger image. The tree signifies an appreciation for the City's history with salt wells, the Jerry rescue and underground abolitionist, while the branches and leaves represent the future and new beginnings of Syracuse. The roots of the tree are supported by the people of Syracuse, whose hands uphold our community daily. The mural contains vibrant colors to encourage the viewer's eyes to dance across warms and cools, appreciating the contrast against the gray city hall building. The piece comes together with a puzzle outline representing a unifying message. Syracuse is full of diverse cultures and backgrounds. It is easy to see ourselves and our culture as an individual puzzle piece, but when we pour ourselves into our community we create a beautiful mosaic, emphasizing our most amazing aspects. That isn't to say it is without difficulty to fit those puzzle pieces together. It's frustrating deciphering those greens, blues and reds into a larger image, but we also relish the satisfaction when we place that final piece down. Syracuse is a beautiful, thriving, diverse, buzzing puzzle and if we put our pieces together, we can create an amazing image with our identities. The mural should act as a reminder of what we can do in the heart of our city when we put all of our pieces together. While the world is chaotic as ever: We are stronger together.

Jessica Whitley

ARTIST

BIO

Hello! My name is Jessica Whitley and I am a local Artist born and raised on the North Side of Syracuse New York. My work focuses on exploring boundaries from personal to societal, analyzing how we engage with each other and our environments. I have lived, studied and worked in Syracuse and would like to use my voice to make people's lives just a little better.



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